

Message Text

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16

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TAGS: PFOR, CA, US

SUBJ: PRESS ON TRUDEAU VISIT

1. EMBASSY HAS ASKED CONSULATES TO REPORT ON EDITORIAL REACTION IN LOCAL PRESS. OTTAWA NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN LARGELY FACTUAL IN REPORTING BASED ON TRUDEAU NEWS CONFERENCE AND BACKGROUNDEERS BY IVAN HEAD AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN. (WE HAVE GIVEN HARTMAN INTERVIEW WIDE DISTRIBUTION). EDITORIAL COMMENT MAY BE FULLER OVER WEEKEND.

2. IN TV COMMENTARY ON DAY OF TRUDEAU VISIT, DECEMBER 4, W. A. WILSON SUGGESTED THAT US-CANADIAN RELATIONS WERE SUFFERING FROM LACK OF ATTENTION BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, AND THAT GOC HAD FAILED ADEQUATELY TO CONSULT ON ISSUES SUCH AS BEEF QUOTAS AND OIL EXPORT REDUCTIONS. IMPLICATION WAS THAT TRUDEAU VISIT AN EFFORT TO REDEEM PAST ERRORS.

3. CHARLES LYNCH IN DECEMBER 5 OTTAWA CITIZEN SAYS:

BEGIN TEXT:

"FROM THE AMERICAN STANDPOINT, 'THE TRUDEAU THING' HAS GONE WELL.

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"CANADA HAS PROMISED TO CONSULT BEFORE TAKING FURTHER ACTIONS THAT MAY BE HARMFUL TO THE UNITED STATES, AND FOR THIS, PRESIDENT FORD IS GRATEFUL.

"PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU IS THUS ABLE TO SEEM TO BE GRANTING A FAVOR, WHILE IN FACT GRANTING NOTHING MORE THAN A WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT.

"FOR CANADA, IT'S A SWEET REVERSAL OF THE OLD ROLES IN THE PAST, IT'S BEEN WASHINGTON THAT ACTED FIRST, AND CONSULTED AFTERWARD, TO THE ANGUISH OF SUCCESSIVE CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS.

"BUT TIMES HAVE CHANGED, AND NOTHING SO BECOMES THE AMERICANS, IN SHAKESPEARE'S PHRASE, AS MODEST STILLNESS AND HUMILITY. THEY EVEN FOUND A GLIMMER OF HOPE IN MR. TRUDEAU'S PROMISE TO CONSULT BEFORE SHUTTING OFF OUR OIL EXPORTS ENTIRELY. TO THE FORD TEAM, THIS OFFERED THE PROSPECT THAT CANADA'S HARD-HEARTED POLICIES MIGHT BE SOFTENED, THOUGH THE TRUDEAU TEAM INSISTED THAT NOTHING HAD CHANGED.

"...THE BRIEFINGS FROM THE AMERICAN SIDE TENDED TO BE MORE SPECIFIC THAN THOSE FROM THE CANADIANS, INDICATING THE EXTENT TO WHICH WASHINGTON FEELS ITSELF THE AGGRIEVED PARTY. THERE WAS MENTION OF 'TENSIONS AND DIFFICULTIES', AND MISGIVINGS ABOUT RECENT NEW DIRECTIONS SET BY CANADA TO CONSERVE HER RESOURCES AND DIVERSIFY HER TRADE.

"THERE WAS NO TALK OF PRESSURE TO FORCE CANADA TO CHANGE HER WAYS, MERELY A PLEA THAT THE UNITED STATES NOT BE HURT ANY MORE THAN CANADA'S SELF-INTEREST MADE NECESSARY.

"THE TRUDEAU VISIT WAS DESCRIBED AS 'NOT A TIME FOR CEREMONY BUT A TIME FOR GOOD TALKS.' NEVER HAS SO MUCH UNDERSTANDING BEEN EXPRESSED FOR CANADA'S SEARCH FOR HER OWN IDENTITY, OR HER FEAR OF BEING SWAMPED BY AMERICAN INTERESTS.

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"THE STATE DEPARTMENT WANTED IT TO BE UNDERSTOOD THAT NOBODY IN WASHINGTON WAS ANTOGONISTIC TO THOSE AIMS, WHICH WERE DESCRIBED AS NORMAL AND NATURAL, EVEN IF THEY WERE CAUSING DIFFICULTY IN CERTAIN AREAS.

"CONFIDENCE WAS EXPRESSED THAT MEANS WOULD BE FOUND TO MEET THE PROBLEM. THE AMERICANS EVEN SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD, OR PRETENDED TO UNDERSTAND, THE DIFFERENCES

BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS IN CANADA WHICH, IF TRUE, WOULD MEAN THEY UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT CANADA THAN CANADIANS DO THEMSELVES.

"...AT THE START OF THE MEETINGS, THE CANADIANS SAID THEY WERE GOING TO LISTEN, AND THE AMERICANS SAID THE SAME, AND THERE SEEMED TO BE SOME UNCERTAINTY ABOUT WHO WOULD BREAK THE RESULTANT SILENCE. IN THE EVENT, THE TWO LEADERS AND THEIR AIDES GOT ON FAMOUSLY, AND MR. TRUDEAU CONGRATULATED MR. FORD ON THE QUALITY OF THE WHITE HOUSE COFFEE.

"FOR ALL THE AMERICAN TALK ABOUT THE NEED FOR INCREASED CONSULTATION, IT SEEMED UNCERTAIN ABOUT HOW THIS WOULD BE ACHIEVED. SECRETARY HARTMAN WAS EMPHATIC THAT THE OLD INTER-CABINET COMMITTEE, WHICH HASN'T MET SINCE 1970, SHOULD NOT BE REVIVED FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT IT NEVER DID ANY USEFUL WORK.

"RATHER, HE SEEMED TO ENVISAGE THAT TOP OFFICIALS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD TALK MORE OFTEN TO ONE ANOTHER, AND THAT INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE TWO CABINETS MIGHT VISIT TOGETHER MORE OFTEN, ALONG THE LINES OF RECENT VISITS TO WASHINGTON OF CANADIAN CABINET MINISTERS. THE MESSAGE SEEMS TO BE THAT WE CAN EXPECT U.S. CABINET MINISTERS TO VISIT OTTAWA MORE OFTEN, THOUGH NO HOPE WAS HELD OUT THAT SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER WOULD EVER MAKE IT. MY QUESTION THAT IF WE COULDN'T HAVE KISSINGER, COULD WE HAVE THE PRESIDENT, WENT UNANSWERED." END TEXT

4. TRUDEAU WILL REPORT TO COMMONS ON HIS U.S. VISIT
DECEMBER 9. JOHNSON
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